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JOS. A. ARNOLD, Editor and Chief.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 2, 1909.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHARGES OF HARMS AGAINST THE MEAT-INSPECTION SERVICE.

The committee appointed to investigate the charges made against the meat-inspection service by J. F. Harms, referring especially to the East St. Louis station, has made its report to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary has approved the report, and has ordered the summary dismissal of Meat Inspectors Harms and Bischof and Veterinary Inspector Michael. The report is given in full herewith.

The Honorable the Secretary of Agriculture.

SIR: One J. F. Harms, formerly a meat inspector at East St. Louis, Ill., on June 8 of this year, charged, in an open letter addressed to you, that the federal meat-inspection service throughout the United States was "rotten" and a farce.

The complete answer to this charge is found in the records of the Bureau of Animal Industry, which show that between July 1, 1906, when the meat-inspection law went into operation, and December 31, 1908, inspectors of the Bureau of Animal Industry absolutely destroyed for food purposes **383,187** carcasses of food animals in their entirety.

During the same period the inspectors also condemned and utterly destroyed for food purposes **73,369,047** pounds of meat and meat food products.

The 383,187 carcasses were all destroyed for food purposes because of their diseased condition, which, in the opinion of the inspectors, rendered them unfit for food purposes. Of the total number 77,780 were cattle, 13,820 were calves, 23,298 were sheep, 114 were goats, and 268,175 were swine.

Of the 73 million pounds of meat and meat food products destroyed for food purposes, more than $12\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds were destroyed because they were sour; $4\frac{1}{4}$ million pounds because they were tainted; $2\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds because they were putrid; more than 25 million pounds because they were unclean; more than 14 million pounds (fats) because they were rancid; and the remainder, amounting to about 15 million pounds, because of conditions other than those named which rendered the meat unsound, unhealthful, unwholesome, or otherwise unfit for human food.

This enormous destruction of food shows conclusively that there is no collusion between those in charge of the enforcement of the law and the packers, and that the meat-inspection law is being enforced to the limit.

In the same letter Mr. Harms also made specific charges against the meat-inspection service at East St. Louis, Ill.

On June 13 last Dr. A. D. Melvin, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and Mr. George P. McCabe, Solicitor of the Department, left for East St. Louis as a committee to investigate these charges.

On the same day Dr. R. P. Steddom, chief of the Inspection Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, departed for Fremont, Ohio, to bring Mr. Harms to East St. Louis for the purposes of the investigation. Doctor Steddom carried to Mr. Harms a letter from Acting Secretary Hays. In this letter Mr. Harms was told that the department accepted the proposition made by Mr. Harms in his letter of June 8 addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture, in which he asked for a fair and impartial investigation of his

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charges. Mr. Harms had stated in this letter that veterinary inspectors, meat inspectors, and inspectors' assistants would corroborate his statements regarding the condition of the meat-inspection service at East St. Louis. Mr. Harms was further told in this letter that Doctor Steddom would ask for the names of the employees on whom Mr. Harms relied to corroborate his charges, and the assurance was given that no employee at the East St. Louis station would in any way jeopardize his position by stating at the investigation frankly and truly what he knew of the prevailing practices. Doctor Steddom proceeded to Fremont, Ohio, and after waiting for two days met Mr. Harms and secured the list of witnesses on whom Mr. Harms relied for corroboration of his charges. The committee arrived in St. Louis on June 14, and Doctor Steddom arrived with Mr. Harms on June 17. Upon arrival, Mr. Harms went with Doctor Steddom to the Southern Hotel in St. Louis, but immediately excused himself and proceeded to the office of one of the St. Louis newspapers, where he was engaged for some time. Mr. Harms then returned to the Southern Hotel accompanied by a reporter of the paper referred to and reported to Doctor Steddom. Here it should be stated that Mr. Harms's open letter to the Secretary was published in the St. Louis paper referred to exclusively two days after the date on which Mr. Harms mailed the letter to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Your committee, accompanied by Doctor Steddom and Dr. A. E. Behnke, associate chief of the Inspection Division, and Dr. George Detewig, traveling inspector, by Mr. Harms, and by the reporter, then left for East St. Louis and proceeded to the office of the secretary of the Live Stock Exchange, who previously had offered the use of his office for the purposes of the investigation. The committee then informed Mr. Harms that the Secretary of Agriculture had instructed Doctor Melvin and Mr. McCabe to afford Harms an opportunity for the investigation of the alleged conditions at East St. Louis. Mr. Harms was advised, in accordance with the direction of the Secretary, that every opportunity would be given him to prove the existence of the conditions described in his letter, and also any other practices in the meat-inspection service which, in his opinion, were not in accordance with the regulations. He was told that it was the desire of the Department to conduct a full, fair, and complete investigation and that every opportunity would be given him to produce any witnesses whom he desired to attend. He was also advised that the committee would use every effort to get at the facts. It was then announced that it was not deemed desirable to hold a public meeting and the reporter for the St. Louis paper was requested to retire from the room. Mr. Harms then stated that if the investigation was not to be open to the members of the press he would not participate therein, whereupon he was told that it was contrary to the policy of the Department to conduct investigations in a public manner, because it had been found that such a method was not productive of all the facts, the inquiry being similar to a grand jury probe. Mr. Harms was assured that each morning he would be supplied with a complete transcript of the previous day's proceedings. He still persisted in his refusal to participate in any investigation which was not public, and withdrew from the room in company with the reporter. Mr. Harms then went immediately to the establishment of Armour & Co., where he had an interview with Meat Inspector Julius Bischof. This man's connection with the investigation will be disclosed in the course of the report.

The committee then proceeded with the investigation, examining every witness named by Mr. Harms to Doctor Steddom, as likely to substantiate his charges. Also every other employee on the force who is connected with the meat-inspection work was examined, and each and every witness was assured that the exact truths were wanted, without any bias or any fear; that he would be absolutely protected by the Department; and that no true statement would be used against him in any way, no matter whom it hurt or whom it helped.

In all Mr. Harms had named some twenty witnesses. Of these, all but two failed to corroborate his charges in any particular, and the testimony of these two—Meat Inspector Julius Bischof and Veterinary Inspector Leo B. Michael—appeared to corroborate some of Harms's charges in one or two particulars. But upon investigation the testimony of these witnesses was found absolutely false, and the committee recommends the summary dismissal of the two men. Their stories were evidently prompted by personal spite against the inspector in charge, who had had occasion to discipline them both for gross neglect of duty, the circumstances of which are as follows:

In the month of April Julius Bischof was reported to Washington by Doctor Clancy, inspector in charge, upon the complaint of Doctor Meadors, assistant inspector in charge, for allowing dirty fats to be removed from his department. It was owing to the vigilance of another employee of the Department that these dirty fats were discovered and prevented from being used in foods. When the complaint against Mr. Bischof was received in Washington the Secretary ordered his indefinite furlough without pay.

After some seventeen days a letter was received from him promising to do better, and he was restored to the force and was told that any further inattention to duty would result in his dismissal.

Veterinary Inspector Michael had been late in reporting for duty several times during the course of his employment. He had at one time absented himself from his post before the work of the day was concluded and at another time he had absented himself from his duty for a period of seventeen days without any notice to his superiors that he would be absent or the cause therefor. Upon each of these occasions he had been reprimanded either by the inspector in charge or by his assistant, and he is evidently very much prejudiced against these men. In addition to the foregoing facts, Meat Inspector Bischof, while engaged in the meat business in Belleville, Ill., prior to his Government employment, had incurred a comparatively large indebtedness to Swift & Co. and to Armour & Co. for meat furnished on account.

These bills were unpaid at the time Mr. Bischof entered the Government service and the firms named pressed him for payment for months, finally appealing to the inspector in charge to compel Mr. Bischof to settle his bills. Several small payments from month to month were made by Mr. Bischof, and finally, in January, after months of urging upon the part of the packers and broken promises on the part of Bischof, the bills were settled in full. Mr. Bischof appeared to feel very much aggrieved because he had been made to pay these debts, and in the opinion of your committee this animus against certain packers, coupled with his recent suspension for neglect of duty and his friendship for Harms, explain the false and exaggerated testimony which he gave.

Mr. Bischof testified that upon one occasion he had seen a carload of spoiled pork trimmings used for sausage. This charge was shown to be false. He also testified regarding the condition of some cured pork, and the testimony showed that he had grossly exaggerated.

The reasons which prompted Harms to file his false charges are not difficult of explanation. The record of his previous employment, given by himself to the Civil Service Commission at the time he took the examination for the position of meat inspector, shows that of late years Mr. Harms has been of a roving and unsettled disposition, which prevents him from working long in any one position or locality. At the time of writing the letter he had been employed at East St. Louis for about eighteen months and shortly theretofore had applied for a transfer to Cleveland, Ohio, near his old home in Fremont, Ohio. This request was refused. Some erratic, nonsensical recommendations to his superiors had been disapproved, and he was plainly growing weary of the hard work which his superiors demanded of him, for he had asked the managers of the packing house to supply him with an armchair in which he might sit during the day. With this request the management of the packing house promptly complied and the armchair was provided. The inspector in charge at East St. Louis does not approve of Government employees in packing houses performing their duties in armchairs, and upon making his objections known to Mr. Harms the inspector in charge was informed that Mr. Harms considered he could perform his duties well and faithfully from the chair. The inspector in charge could not see the wisdom of this course and immediately made arrangements to transfer Mr. Harms from the important department in which he was employed to another department, where he could be better kept under supervision. Mr. Harms then resigned and either wrote or caused to be written the letter which he signed and sent to the Secretary of Agriculture and of which he gave a copy to the St. Louis newspaper which published it exclusively on June 10.

A review of the testimony on the specific charges made by Harms is given later in this report and it shows conclusively that not one of his charges has any basis in fact. In some cases he selected incidents which actually happened and by gross exaggeration and false statements built upon these actual happenings until he had the stories given in his charges to the Secretary.

In the opinion of the committee, Mr. Harms, at the time he wrote the letter, did so because he was tired of the hard work of the service; he had been urged on by Mr. Bischof, who had a grudge against certain packers because they had compelled him to pay his honest debts and also a grudge against Doctors Clancy and Meadors, his official superiors, because, through them, he had been suspended for neglect of duty; further, Harms had secured employment from a collection agency in St. Louis, whose principal employee has been convicted of postal frauds in a federal court. Finally, Mr. Harms desired to vent his spleen and to injure the meat-inspection service because of the refusal of the Washington authorities to transfer him to Cleveland.

The open letter and the exclusive publication in the St. Louis newspaper were the result. What motive actuated Mr. Harms in giving this St. Louis paper an exclusive story the committee was not able to learn.

In brief, it is the opinion of the committee, and it is so reported to you, that the charges made by Mr. Harms are without foundation in fact and are untrue. They represent simply the spite of dissatisfied, disgruntled employees. Our investigation discloses beyond a doubt that the service at East St. Louis is in good shape; that the men are competent; that the packing houses are clean and sanitary; and that no meat receives the mark of Government inspection which is not sound, healthful, wholesome, and fit for human food. This is what "U. S. Inspected and Passed" means at East St. Louis and what it means at all the other hundreds of places where the federal meat-inspection service is maintained. During the past three years the Bureau of Animal Industry has found it necessary, for the good of the service, to discharge over 100 men for incompetency and for other causes. It has also been found necessary to discipline many more men for less serious faults, and it is not unreasonable to expect that some of these men will have charges against the service from which they have been incontinently expelled because of unworthiness.

As for Mr. Harms, he is a thoroughly discredited man, and we do not believe that the Department should pay the slightest attention to any further charges made by him. He had his opportunity for investigation at East St. Louis, and he refused it. The investigation proceeded in his absence, and 18 of the 20 witnesses named by him to corroborate his charges utterly failed to do so, and the two who did corroborate him in part were biased, disgruntled employees, whose stories were proven by the testimony taken before the committee to be false. In the face of these facts a further investigation of charges made by Mr. Harms would be frivolous and unnecessary, especially in view of the fact that the committee has taken the testimony of each and every employee on the force, and even by the testimony of his own witnesses Mr. Harms is proven to be unreliable, disingenuous, and untruthful.

The committee recommends that the resignation of Mr. Harms be not accepted, and that he be discharged for cause.

CHARGES MADE BY MR. HARMS AND THE FACTS IN RELATION THERE TO AS DISCLOSED BY THE TESTIMONY TAKEN BY DOCTOR MELVIN AND MR. McCABE.

GENERAL CHARGES.

- (1) The Government inspectors in charge of departments are actually working overtime in the packers' interests. The packers control the inspectors in charge of the departments, who are giving to the packers animals that are unsound, unhealthful, unwholesome, and otherwise unfit for human food, including many that show tuberculosis, emaciation, or advanced pregnancy, and many that are in a dying condition.

The committee found absolutely no evidence to support this charge. The only employees who are in a position to pass for food animals affected with the diseases mentioned are the veterinary inspectors. Every veterinary inspector on the force was examined by the committee and all, with the exception of Doctor Michael, testified that the regulations were strictly adhered to and that no animals unfit for human food from any cause were given to the packers, but that all such unfit animals were condemned and destroyed for food purposes under Government supervision. Doctor Michael testified that upon one occasion over eighteen months ago his attention had been called to two animals in the gangway immediately outside the killing floor. He went out and examined the animals, according to his testimony, and found that they were dead but still warm. He returned to the killing floor and was asked by the killing boss for permission to bring the carcasses of the animals on to the killing floor in order to get at the tank where they were to be destroyed for food purposes. He testified that he gave this permission, that the animals were brought upon the killing floor, and that as they were being skinned, preparatory to placing them in the condemned tank, Doctor Meadors, the assistant inspector in charge, appeared on the floor; whereupon Doctor Michael told Doctor Meadors about finding the two dead animals and that he had given permission for them to be brought upon the killing floor for the purpose above stated.

Doctor Michael testified that Doctor Meadors then examined the animals, and remarked that they had bled out well and that they should be passed for food. Doctor Meadors then instructed Doctor Michael, so the latter testifies, to pass the animals for food, and this was done. When confronted with this testimony, Doctor Meadors positively denied any such occurrence, and it was necessary to seek other testimony to get at the truth of the matter. Doctor Michael was asked to name

some persons who could corroborate his testimony, and he named the killing boss and one government inspector to whom he said he had told of the occurrence about a year after it happened. The killing boss absolutely denied all knowledge of the occurrence, and the government inspector to whom Doctor Michael testified he had told of the occurrence stated that he had never heard of it. This alleged occurrence was first brought to the attention of the committee by Mr. Bischof, who said he had been told of it by Doctor Michael.

On examination, Doctor Michael stated that he had told Mr. Bischof of the occurrence some time after the committee had arrived in St. Louis to undertake the investigation. The committee visited the killing floor and gangway where the incident is alleged to have occurred and discovered that, on account of a steep incline over which it was necessary to drag the animals, it would be necessary to employ 15 or 20 men to drag the carcasses on to the killing floor. A careful examination of employees on the killing force disclosed that no such incident had ever occurred, and the committee is satisfied that Doctor Michael manufactured his story out of whole cloth in a desire to injure Doctor Meadors, who had upon several occasions reprimanded him for inattention to and neglect of duty. There was no veterinary inspector on the force who had ever been told of the occurrence, and even the one inspector whom Doctor Michael testified he had told of it denied positively that such was the fact. If the incident had occurred, Doctor Michael would have been seriously at fault for not reporting to the inspector in charge, Doctor Clancy, the alleged action of Doctor Meadors in passing the carcasses of dead animals for food. No such report was ever made.

(2) Meat inspection is rotten.

All of the employees examined testified that the meat inspection is most rigorous and thorough, and that no meat is marked "U. S. Inspected and Passed" which is not sound, healthful, wholesome, and fit for human food.

(3) The inspectors in charge have made agreements with the packers to ease up on the inspection.

It is needless to state that the only way in which the inspectors in charge could carry out such an agreement would be by instructions to the veterinary inspectors, in whose hands lie the disposition of animals. Each and every veterinary inspector and meat inspector on the force was examined on this point, and all testified that they had received no instructions to ease up on the inspection in violation of the regulations, but, on the contrary, that they had all been told time and again to adhere strictly to the regulations in making dispositions of animals.

(4) Inspectors in charge have made special arrangements with the packers to dispose of certain animals contrary to the regulations governing meat inspection.

There was absolutely no testimony to support this charge, except the testimony of Doctor Michael on the incident discussed under charge 1. Every other inspector testified that no special arrangements had been made to dispose of animals contrary to the regulations, but, on the contrary, each animal was disposed of strictly in accordance with the regulations.

(5) Word was passed from the inspector in charge to the inspectors doing the work on the floors that too many animals were being condemned and to change the grading.

The testimony of all the inspectors was a unit on this point. Not one of them had ever received word to change his grading and none of them had ever been told that too many animals were being condemned.

(6) The packers are getting at the present time from 70 to 80 per cent of what ought to be condemned and destroyed.

Every employee examined testified that the packers are getting nothing at the present time and have not since the meat-inspection service was inaugurated got any product which, under the regulations, is required to be condemned and destroyed.

(7) Men holding good positions with the packers see and know of the wrong practices and acknowledge that they are wrong.

With one exception, every employee examined testified that he knew of no case where men holding positions with the packers had discussed with them, or in their

hearing, any alleged wrong practices under the regulations. The exception was Meat Inspector Julius Bischof, who related two alleged conversations with employees of the packers concerning certain pork trimmings which Mr. Bischof claimed were spoiled and were allowed to be used. Both of these employees were examined in Mr. Bischof's presence and each stated absolutely that no such conversation had ever occurred and that they had never known of any spoiled pork trimmings being used.

(8) Many of the regulations are violated daily.

With the exception of Mr. Bischof, all of the employees testified that they knew of no regulations which were violated daily, generally, or even occasionally. Most of them seemed to feel that it was their duty to see that the regulations were not violated. They testified that they were doing their duty and they seemed to be proud of it.

(9) It is the general practice in sausage departments to use bladders for casings without thoroughly washing and cleaning; to use filthy tripe in sausage; to use slimy hog stomachs for casings or containers; to use meats that have fallen on the floor without pretense of cleaning. All these practices are permitted by the inspectors in charge and if an inspector calls the attention of those in charge to these practices he is not encouraged.

No testimony was adduced to prove any of these charges. On the contrary, all the testimony was to the effect that none of these practices are tolerated or allowed. With the exception of Mr. Bischof, every man examined testified that he is encouraged to see that the regulations are strictly complied with by the packers, and a few inspectors testified that they had been reprimanded for not being more severe in the enforcement of the regulations.

SPECIFIC CHARGES.

(1) On April 1, 1909, Doctors Graham and Stingley retained and condemned 11 beef carcasses for emaciation. On April 2 Doctors Clancy and Meadors released 6 of said carcasses to the packers, and the other 5 were tanked and destroyed. One carcass was no better than another in this lot. This happened at Swift's establishment, No. 3C. On the morning of April 2 Mr. Brady, superintendent of Swift's beef department, said to Mr. Harms, in speaking of the 11 carcasses, "Yes; they are a bad lot and had I been on the floor last evening I would not have let them come down, but would have sent them to the tank."

Doctors Graham and Stingley were examined on this charge and each testified to the following facts:

On the day mentioned, during the process of the killing, Doctors Graham and Stingley caused 11 beef carcasses to be retained for further examination, for emaciation. There were no lesions of disease in any of the carcasses, the only question being whether the carcasses would furnish nutritious food. It is a regular practice of the inspectors, in accordance with the regulations, if any carcass is suspected for any reason to cause it to be retained in order that after the kill is over the inspectors may have time to make a leisurely, complete, and thorough examination. On the morning of April 2, Doctor Graham examined the retained carcasses. He was in doubt as to what disposition should be made and he called upon Doctor Meadors, the assistant inspector in charge, for a conference.

Doctor Meadors and Doctor Graham agreed that 4 of the animals should be passed and 4 of the animals should be destroyed for food purposes, and they were unable to agree as to the disposition of 3 carcasses. They then called in Doctor Clancy, the inspector in charge, for a final decision, and Doctor Clancy decided that 5 of the carcasses should be passed and 6 should be condemned. This action was taken. The 5 carcasses were marked "U. S. Inspected and Passed" and the 6 carcasses were destroyed for food purposes, as shown by the official records of the station. Doctors Graham, Stingley, Meadors, and Clancy were all agreed as to the final disposition of the animals, and there was no conflict of opinion in regard thereto. Mr. Brady, the superintendent of Swift's beef department, when asked if he had a conference with Mr. Harms regarding these 11 carcasses, replied that he had never had any conversation on this or any allied subject with Mr. Harms, and when told of Mr. Harms's statement of the alleged conversation with him he absolutely denied it.

(2) Mr. Harms saw from 1,200 to 1,500 pounds of lard spilled on the floor, which ran down into an open sewer in the floor, the sewer outlet being quickly blocked and the lard taken up from the floor and out of the

sewer, both of which were unclean and insanitary from constant use, from walking over, and from the sputum and filth which naturally find their way into any sewer. Doctors Clancy and Meadors passed this lard to the packers over the protest of the inspector on that floor, and it went out to the public marked "U. S. Inspected and Passed."

This is an involved falsehood. It is a fact that upon one occasion in the oleo room about 1,200 pounds of lard spilled on the floor. The lard was in a semiliquid condition and part of it ran into the floor gutter, part of it onto a portion of the floor which had been walked upon, and part of it upon a portion of the floor which is and was as clean as any kitchen table. Inspector Fitzgerald was present when the spill occurred. He immediately took charge and directed that the lard be recovered and placed in two trucks. That portion of the lard which fell into the floor gutter and onto the dirty portion of the floor was placed in one truck and about one-third of the total amount of lard spilled, which had not been in contact with the dirty floor or with the floor gutter, was placed in another truck. The next morning Inspector Fitzgerald sent for Doctor Meadors and recommended to him that the lard from the gutter and the dirty portion of the floor be condemned, and that the lard from the clean portion of the floor be passed. Doctor Meadors made a careful examination of the floor and of the lard which Inspector Fitzgerald thought should be passed, and finding it clean and wholesome and in no way contaminated, he sustained Inspector Fitzgerald and ordered that portion of the lard passed. In this connection the committee made a personal examination of the floor of the oleo room in which the spill occurred. The floor is absolutely spotless and is kept constantly in that condition except that portion over which it is necessary for the men to walk. Mr. Harms tells an untruth when he says that he saw this happen because he was not present. He tells an untruth when he says that the lard was taken up from the sewer and passed to the packers over the protest of the inspectors on that floor, and that it went out to the public marked "U. S. Inspected and Passed." There was no conflict of opinion between the inspectors and no lard which had been in a sewer or which was unclean in any way was marked "U. S. Inspected and Passed."

- (3) Upon entering the offal cooler of Morris & Co.'s establishment early one morning, Mr. Harms found that the rats had held forth during the night, leaving traces and evidences which were a fright. Mr. Harms placed some 20 "U. S. Retained" tags upon the meat products in the cooler. Doctor Meadors released nearly all of these products to the packers and most of them went into sausage and found their way to the public, marked "U. S. Inspected and Passed."

The facts regarding this incident are as follows:

Mr. Harms reported to Doctor Meadors that he suspected that rats had gained access to this cooler. Doctor Meadors directed him to watch the matter closely and see if he could discover any evidence of rat contamination. One morning Mr. Harms reported to Doctor Meadors that he had found rat contamination and Doctor Meadors accompanied him to the cooler. He there found about 15 trays of meat marked "U. S. Retained," the marks being placed there by Mr. Harms. He sent for the superintendent of the plant. Mr. Harms, Doctor Meadors, the superintendent of the plant, and the foreman of the offal cooler then examined the meat.

Evidences of rat contamination were found in 12 trays and the meat in these trays was condemned and destroyed, as shown by the official records. In three or four of the trays where it seemed that rats might have run over part of the product, the meat which bore any evidences of such contamination was tanked, and that portion of the meat which bore no evidence of having come in contact with the rats was taken to another room and as an extra precautionary measure was thoroughly scrubbed with brushes. It was then allowed to be used. Therefore no meat bearing any evidences of rat contamination was allowed to be used in sausage or was marked "U. S. Inspected and Passed," and all of the meat in the cooler which might by any possibility have come in contact with the rats, but concerning which there was no evidence, was thoroughly washed before it was allowed to be used. Mr. Harms participated in the discussion as to what disposition should be made of the meat, and he apparently was thoroughly satisfied with its disposition. Doctor Meadors immediately informed Doctor Clancy of the occurrence, and Doctor Clancy caused the packers to immediately seal the cooler so that thereafter rats could not have access thereto. It appears that the management had already started the construction of a new cooler, and when your committee visited the plant this cooler was in use. We visited the old cooler, however, and saw that it had been rendered rat proof. It is now not in use as an offal cooler. An explanation should here be made of the term "offal cooler." It is the room in which livers, hearts, and other food organs of the carcass are kept.

- (4) On May 14, 15, and 17, Mr. Harms took three samples of meat from the cooking vats of Armour's extract room. These samples were filthy beyond description. Mr. Harms put the samples away in the freezer, expecting to hold the extract at the time it was drawn off on May 19, but on May 18 Mr. Harms received notice to report for duty at another establishment on May 19. On May 18 Mr. Harms showed the samples to Doctors Clancy and Meadors and to Mr. Lockwood, foreman of meat inspectors. Doctor Clancy did not hold the product, but allowed it to go out bearing the mark of inspection and containing filth and corruption.

It is true that Mr. Harms showed some samples of meats to Doctors Clancy and Meadors on May 18 which he claimed he took from the cooking vats in the meat-extract room. He was asked why he had allowed the manufacture of the meat extract to go on, why he had not condemned and destroyed the entire product, if it was of the character shown by the samples. These samples were small pieces of meat, one bearing a tuft of wool, the other a piece of hide, and the third was a beef gullet stained with the stomach content. Mr. Harms replied that he had not considered it necessary to take this action. He was told by Doctor Clancy that he would make a thorough investigation of the matter. Doctor Clancy then instructed the man who took Mr. Harms's place to make a thorough examination of the extract in the vats and of the residue therein. This examination was duly made and it disclosed no appearance of any filth, dirt, or foreign matter of any kind. The extract as completed was perfectly clean and sweet, and, accordingly, there being no evidence except Mr. Harms's word, which was apparently controverted by the facts, the extract was passed for food. Mr. Harms remarked to one of the men on the force, who so testified before the committee, that he, Harms, "had been looking for a chance to get the packers for three weeks." Your committee made an examination of the private records of Armour & Co.'s establishment, which showed absolutely all of the meat product which went into the extract room on the dates mentioned by Mr. Harms, and also took the testimony of the employee in charge of the extract room. The records and the testimony of this employee show that no meat of the character of the samples shown by Mr. Harms went into the extract room on the dates mentioned, and your committee is forced to the conclusion that Mr. Harms did not obtain the samples from the extract vats, but that he probably obtained them from some condemned material which was on its way to the tank.

- (5) To the personal knowledge of Mr. Harms, the offal and leaf-lard coolers at Armour's establishment 2D are, and have been for the last twenty-one months, in an insanitary condition. These coolers are directly underneath the beef casing or rough tallow floor. Moist filth and slime constantly seep and leak down onto all products in the coolers, and all this product finds its way to the public bearing the mark of inspection.

This is a falsehood made up of whole cloth. The committee examined every man on the force who had had occasion to visit these coolers and all testified that they were in first-class condition. The committee made a personal examination of the coolers, examining them carefully to see if any recent repairs had been made or if their condition had been altered in any way during the past few months. They found that no such repairs had been made and that they were in exactly the same condition as they had been in for the past twenty-one months. There is no filth or slime which seeps through the ceilings and leaks down onto the products in the coolers.

- (6) The meat inspector at Swift's held some 6,000 or 7,000 pounds of meat for being sour. Four or five other inspectors were called in, and they all pronounced the meat sour. Doctor Meadors released it to the packers.

This charge is a fine sample of Mr. Harms's method of selecting an incident which actually occurred and distorting it out of all semblance to the truth. The facts, briefly stated, are as follows:

Some 6,000 pounds of hams were examined by one of the Government inspectors at Swift's, the claim being made by the inspector that the hams were sour and that portions of them were unfit for food. Swift's foreman did not agree with the inspector, and Doctor Meadors, the assistant inspector in charge, was called in, also Mr. Lockwood, the supervising meat inspector, who is an expert on the condition of cured meats. Doctor Meadors and Mr. Lockwood in turn called upon four other meat inspectors from different establishments to examine the product. Every particle of it which was unsound or unfit for food in any way was condemned and destroyed for food purposes. There is not one atom of truth in this charge of Mr. Harms.

- (7) At one time Mr. Harms held some 800 pounds of hog-killing fats that had been spilled into an elevator platform that was in the filthiest condition. Doctor Meadors released it to the packers.

There is no record at the station and no remembrance upon the part of any Department employee of any *hog* killing fats having been spilled into an elevator platform. There is a record, however, of the spilling into an elevator platform of about 1,000 pounds of *beef* fat, and this is the incident undoubtedly to which Mr. Harms refers. Mr. Harms on one occasion notified Doctor Meadors that he had retained, and desired to condemn, a truckload of beef fat because it had been spilled into an elevator platform. Doctor Meadors immediately visited the room in which the fat was retained and the room in which the fat was spilled. He found that the truckload of fat was composed of very large pieces of beef fat, and that an employee of the packers in trucking the same had spilled it into a depression in the floor, about five inches deep, in which an elevator normally rested. That part of the fat which fell upon the floor of this platform was dirty, but the other part of the thousand or more pounds of fat which had not come in any way in contact with the floor, having been piled upon the other fat, was not soiled or contaminated in any way. Doctor Meadors ruled that the fat which had become dirty by contact with the platform should be tanked—and this was done—and that the other fat which had not become contaminated in any way should be released, which was only the natural and just thing to do. Mr. Harms, however, demurred, claiming that he did not approve of the elevator platform and the condition in which it had been maintained. He wished to condemn and destroy all the fat, the clean with the dirty, as a penalty on the packers for maintaining this elevator platform in a manner objectionable to him.

- (8) The sour meat and the filthy fat mentioned above all found their way to the public marked "U. S. Inspected and Passed."

This charge refers to the hams discussed under charge 6 and the beef fats discussed under charge 7. It has been shown that neither the sour hams nor the dirty fat was passed for food. On the contrary, that it was all condemned and destroyed for food purposes. This charge, therefore, is absolutely false.

DISHONESTY AND INCOMPETENCY.

Mr. Harms charges that the Government employees in the meat-inspection service are dishonest, that they are not looking after the public interest, and that the Bureau of Animal Industry is in the hands of dishonest and incompetent men.

The most searching investigation by your committee failed to reveal any trace of dishonesty on the part of any employee at the East St. Louis station. The record of that station for the past three years shows that 11,947 carcasses in their entirety have been destroyed for food purposes and 1,047,541 pounds of meat have been absolutely destroyed for food purposes. This meat was destroyed because it was either sour, tainted, putrid, unclean, rancid, or otherwise unsound, unhealthful, or unwholesome, and therefore unfit for human food. This record indicates anything but dishonesty or incompetency.

It is the belief of your committee that the men at the East St. Louis station, from the top to the bottom, are absolutely honest and competent; that they are discharging their duty to the service and to the public in a conscientious, high-minded, efficient way, and that no meat is passed from the East St. Louis station bearing the mark of federal inspection which is not in every respect fit for human food. The record shows that many of the employees at the East St. Louis station have worked overtime in their efforts to give an honest, efficient inspection, and it is to be regretted that the word of a disgruntled, dissatisfied employee, irresponsible and answerable to no one, should be made the occasion of an attack upon a service which is honestly conducted and which means so much to the American consumer of meat food products, and to the cattle, sheep, and hog raisers of the country, who are bound to suffer from any attack, no matter how uncalled for, which may be made upon the service.

There is absolutely no basis of fact for the charges made by Mr. Harms, and yet it is undoubtedly a fact that these same charges will, to a greater or less extent, reflect injuriously upon the foreign market for American meat food products.

Very respectfully,

A. D. MELVIN,
Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry.
 GEO. P. McCABE,
Solicitor, Department of Agriculture.

